App. No. 10/783,319 Office Action Dated February 22, 2007

Reply to Office Action Dated August 22, 2007

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the reinforcement member

comprises wood.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein the reinforcement member

further comprises plastic.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 11-17. Claims 6 and 14 are canceled

by this amendment. Claims 5, 8-10 and 18-20 are withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by US Patent No. 5,419,672 to Poe. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the

bases of the rejections. However, claim 1 has been amended. The additional limitations

in claim 1 now include retaining pieces connected to looped elasticized cords which are

removably attached to the holding elements. Poe does not teach, motivate or suggest all

of the limitations in claim 1 as amended. As such, applicant respectfully submits that

claim 1 as amended, and each of the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for

allowance.

Claim 15 has also been amended to reflect that the item is hung on a looped

elasticized cord which is attached to a retaining piece retained in an aperture of the

slidable member. Again, Poe does not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations in

claim 15 as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 as amended, and each

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of the claims that depend therefrom, including claims 16-17, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 1,132,190 to Kohout. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the bases of the rejections. However, claim 11 has been amended, as has claim 15 as described above. Claim 11 is amended to include that the slidable member has apertures within integral notches, and that retaining pieces connected to looped elasticized cords are removably connected to the apertures, with the elasticized cords extending through the integral notches. Kohout does not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations present in claims 11 or 15 as amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 15, and each of the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 16 and 17 as unpatentable over Kohout in view of Hakeem (US Patent No. 5,076,442). However, the combination of Kohout in view of Hakeem also fails to disclose all of the limitations now recited in claims 11 and 15 from which those claims depend, and thus applicant respectfully submits that those claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohout in view of Bennett, US Patent No. 4,260,063, and further in view of Van Ipereen, US Patent No. 4,538,738. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's basis for rejection of claim 14. Nonetheless, claim 14 is canceled by this Amendment and applicant reserves to the right to present claim 14 in a continuation application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohout in view of Bennett, US Patent No. 4,260,063, in view of Van

Ipereen, US Patent No. 4,538,738, and further in view of Leeper, US Patent No.

2,846,079. However, even with the additional reference Leeper, the combined references

listed above do not teach, motivate or suggest all of the limitations of base claim 1, as

amended, from which each of these claims depend.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a good faith effort to address all outstanding issues raised by

the Examiner in the most recent Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that this

application and all claims currently pending are in condition for allowance, and that

applicant is entitled to consideration of the claims to additional species which depend

from any allowable generic claims. If questions remain, the Examiner is invited to

contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted

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By

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Enclosures:

Return receipt postcard

Transmittal Form

Fee Transmittal Form and a copy

Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)

Form 122

Check #

in the amount of \$510

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